

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 43-46, 56 and 57 are all the claims currently pending.

By this Amendment, claims 43, 56 and 57 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Response to Claim Objections:

The Examiner has objected to claim 56 as containing minor informalities. Applicants have amended herein this claim, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 43-46, 56, and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (U.S. Patent Number 5,521,719, hereafter "Yamada") in view of Wada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,686, hereafter "Wada"). The Applicant traverses the above rejections for the following reasons.

By the above amendments, claims 43, 56 and 57 are directed to a feature that in the e-mail data under MIME format, the image file converted from the facsimile image data is one part and the text data of reception result, including a telephone number of the transmitting source and a reception date of the facsimile image data, is another part.

According to this feature, it is possible for the receiving side to easily know the form in which the transmitting side has transmitted the facsimile image data. This is based on the text data in another part of the e-mail data, including the received telephone number and reception date, when the facsimile image data has been received by the receiving side. Additionally, it is possible for receiving side to reproduce the received facsimile image since the received facsimile image can be independently obtained as an attached image file from one part of the e-mail data.

This additional feature is supported by the e-mail data illustrated in Fig. 5. The related description, for example, is on page 20, line 19 to page 21, line 8, as well as on page 25, lines 1-22. In Fig. 5, the received facsimile data is converted into an image file in IIFF format and the image file is converted into the third part of the MIME e-mail data format (see Content-Type: image/tiff, file name-mail fax machine 970619215919.tiff). On the other hand, the text data of

reception result, including a telephone number of the transmitting source and a reception date of the facsimile image data, is converted into the second part of the MIME e-mail data format (see Content-type: text/Plain; [FAX RECEPTION DATE] and [FAX SOURCE TELEPHONE NUBER]).

The Examiner states in the Office Action that Yamada fails to disclose the recognition means and transmission means of the present invention recited by prior claim 43, but relies on Wada for disclosing the above elements, which Yamada fails to disclose. However, we disagree.

Yamada and Wada give no hint or suggestion to convert the image file and text data of reception result, including the telephone number of the transmitting source and the reception date of the facsimile image data recognized by said recognition means, into an e-mail data format wherein the image file is one part and the text data of reception result is another part in MIME format. Yamada and Wada also give no hint or suggestion to transmit the e-mail data, comprising the image file of facsimile image data and the text data of reception result respectively, in independent parts of the e-mail data.

Further, all cited references cited in the course of the examination by Japanese Patent Office and filed in the IDS give no hint or suggestion of the above features of the present amendment.

Accordingly, claims 43, 56 and 57 are believed to be distinguishable over Yamada and Wada, either individually or in combination. Likewise, claims 44-46 are also believed to be distinguishable over Yamada and Wada based on their dependency from claim 43.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4458.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4458.

Respectfully submitted,
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